

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An apparatus for sealing a flattened tube (34) of heat-sealable filter paper to make filter bags for infusion products, where the tube (34) is made from a web (17) of filter paper that is sealable by thermal reactivation of a layer of glue, the web (17) having individual charges (19) of the infusion product placed on its top surface at suitable intervals and being fed continuously in the horizontal position and then folded onto itself until its longitudinal edges (18) are juxtaposed, the apparatus (250) comprising at least one operator block (94) bearing at least one row (251) of emitters (96) designed to give off a gaseous fluid heated to a suitable temperature, the operator block being accommodated inside the tube (34) being formed, the row (251) of emitters (96) being aligned and juxtaposed with the longitudinal edges (18) of the web (17) of filter paper, and the emitters (96) giving off the gaseous fluid onto the faces of the inside edges (97) of the tube (34) directly on the glue on the web (17) of filter paper as it is being folded over around the operator block (94).

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a single operator block (94).

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the operator block (94) comprises two rows (251) of emitters (96) juxtaposed with the longitudinal edges (18) of the tube (34) being formed.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2 or 3~~, wherein the single operator block (94) has laterally projecting edges (252) bearing the emitters (96) in such a way that the latter face the longitudinal edges (18) of the tube (34) of filter paper.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~any of the foregoing claims from 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the operator block (94) has the shape of an elongated, tapering solid and is positioned in such a way that its wide end (253) faces the direction (254) opposite the direction in which the web (17) of filter paper is being fed, the operator block (94) having oblique side walls (98) bearing the emitters (96) in such a way that the latter face the inside of the tube (34) in order to reactivate the glue on the faces (97).

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the oblique side walls (98) are in contact with the longitudinal edges (18) of the tube (34), thus preventing the air issuing from the emitters (96) from passing between the edges (18) and the oblique side walls (98) themselves.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~any of the foregoing claims~~ claim 1, wherein the emitters are apertures (96) passing through the oblique side walls (98) and communicating with an internal chamber (259) common to both the rows (251) and supplied with the gaseous fluid.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~any of the foregoing claims~~ claim 1, wherein the apertures (96) are substantially rectangular in shape.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7 ~~or 8~~, comprising channels (255) for diverting the fluid flow and communicating with the apertures (96).

Please add new claims 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, as follows:

10. (New) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the operator block (94) comprises two rows (251) of emitters (96) juxtaposed with the longitudinal edges (18) of the tube (34) being formed.

11. (New) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the single operator block (94) has laterally projecting edges (252) bearing the emitters (96) in such a way that the latter face the longitudinal edges (18) of the tube (34) of filter paper.

12. (New) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the single operator block (94) has laterally projecting edges (252) bearing the emitters (96) in such a way that the latter face the longitudinal edges (18) of the tube (34) of filter paper.

13. (New) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the operator block (94) has the shape of an elongated, tapering solid and is positioned in such a way that its wide end (253) faces the direction (254) opposite the direction in which the web (17) of filter paper is being fed, the operator block (94) having oblique side walls

(98) bearing the emitters (96) in such a way that the latter face the inside of the tube (34) in order to reactivate the glue on the faces (97).

14. (New) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the operator block (94) has the shape of an elongated, tapering solid and is positioned in such a way that its wide end (253) faces the direction (254) opposite the direction in which the web (17) of filter paper is being fed, the operator block (94) having oblique side walls (98) bearing the emitters (96) in such a way that the latter face the inside of the tube (34) in order to reactivate the glue on the faces (97).

15. (New) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the operator block (94) has the shape of an elongated, tapering solid and is positioned in such a way that its wide end (253) faces the direction (254) opposite the direction in which the web (17) of filter paper is being fed, the operator block (94) having oblique side walls (98) bearing the emitters (96) in such a way that the latter face the inside of the tube (34) in order to reactivate the glue on the faces (97).

16. (New) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the emitters are apertures (96) passing through the oblique side walls (98) and communicating with an internal chamber (259) common to both the rows (251) and supplied with the gaseous fluid.

17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the emitters are apertures (96) passing through the oblique side walls (98) and communicating with an internal chamber (259) common to both the rows (251) and supplied with the gaseous fluid.

18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the apertures (96) are substantially rectangular in shape.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 8, comprising channels (255) for diverting the fluid flow and communicating with the apertures (96).